

HEROES AND VILLAINS ENTERTAINMENT



BUSHIDO

THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR



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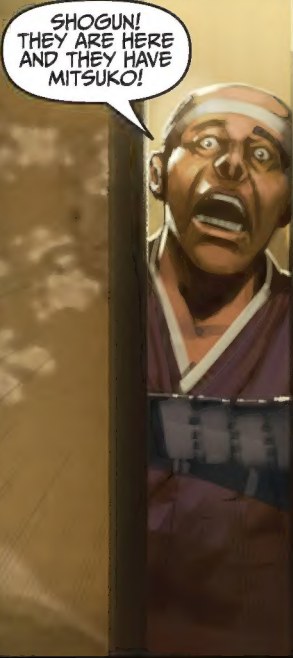


THEY ARE COMING!

EVEN WITH THE FASTEST HORSE IN ALL OF NIPPON, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO TIME TO WARN THE SHOGUN OF THE THREAT HEADED TO EDO.



YOU MUST OPEN THE DOOR AT ONCE.
THEY ARE COMING.



SHOGUN!
THEY ARE HERE
AND THEY HAVE
MITSUKO!



AT LAST,
KICHIRO AND
THE OTHERS HAVE
RETURNED WITH
MITSUKO.

YOU
MISUNDERSTAND.
IT IS NOT KICHIRO
WHO HAS
ARRIVED...

"...THE ONI MARCH
BEYOND THESE
WALLS."





YOU
HAVE MY
ATTENTION.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT?



I AM A
CREATOR, ALL YOU
SEE BEFORE YOU
CRAFTED AND HONED
BY MY HAND,
ACCORDING TO MY
DESIGN.

LEST YOU
THINK THAT IS
ALL I AM, LET
ME REASSURE
YOU...

...I AM ALSO A
DESTROYER.



WE HAVE BEEN TREES WITHOUT ROOTS.
FISH WITHOUT A STREAM. THIS ISLAND OF
YOURS...NIPPON...IS THE NEXT STEP IN
OUR EVOLUTION. YOU WILL
GIVE IT TO US.

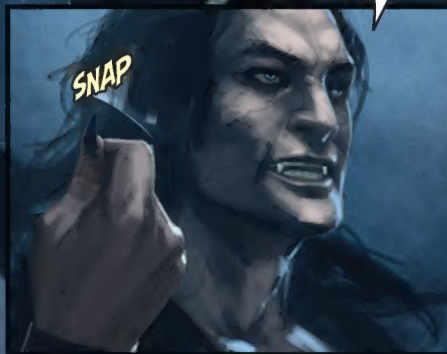
AND WHAT IF
IT IS NOT MINE TO
GIVE? I AM BUT ITS
SERVANT, JUST AS I
LEAD MY PEOPLE
ONLY SO THAT THEY
MAY FLOURISH.

IT SEEMS
WE AREN'T SO
DIFFERENT,
SHOGUN. WE BOTH
THINK ABOUT THE
FUTURE AND HOW
TO ENSURE IT IS
PROSPEROUS.

WE BOTH THINK
ABOUT OUR
OFFSPRING.



SNAP





IF THIS ISLAND IS NOT YOURS TO GIVE, I PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE. YOU, AND ALL THAT YOU DO POSSESS...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.

FATHER, NO! YOU CANNOT TRUST THEM. I WOULD SOONER DIE THAN SEE DISHONOR BROUGHT TO YOU OR NIPPON.

NEVER HAVE I UNDERSTOOD MORE CLEARLY THAT THE WAY IS FOUND IN DEATH.

WE DON'T NEED HIS PERMISSION. HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO WAIT?

WOULD YOU HAVE ME SPOIL THE NEXT MONTH'S WORTH OF MEALS...OR GIVE THE MAN A FEW MOMENTS TO MAKE AN IMPOSSIBLE DECISION?

I APPRECIATE YOUR APPETENCE, RAVEN, BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE IMPATIENT.

I ONLY HOPE NIPPON SURVIVES AS WELL.

EVERY MAN IS FREE TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS. BUT AS A FATHER, I AM RESPONSIBLE TO MORE THAN JUST MYSELF.

IF I CAN PREVENT MITSUKO FROM BEING HARMED, I WILL DO IT, NO MATTER THE COST. I WILL TRADE MY LIFE FOR HERS.

Moments later...

OPEN THE GATES.

WAIT!

YOU CANNOT GO OUT THERE, SHOGUN.

I KNEW MY BROTHER'S PRESENCE MEANT HE WOULD BE RETICENT TO TRUST US, BUT THE SHOGUN LED NIPPON WITH A MEASURED CONFIDENCE I HAVE SEEN IN NO OTHER.

YOU DARE BRING THIS MONSTER INSIDE OUR WALLS?!

STAND DOWN. HE IS NOT LIKE THEM.

I HAVE THE SCARS TO PROVE OTHERWISE.

AND THEY HAVE MY DAUGHTER! BECAUSE OF HIM!

MY BROTHER MADE MISTAKES. THE VERY FACT THAT HE RECOGNIZES THAT PROVES HE HAS GOOD IN HIS HEART, UNLIKE THE AKUMA OUTSIDE THOSE WALLS.

SHOGUN, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK, BUT... FORGIVE ME.

HE LOST HIS PATH, BUT HE HAS REDISCOVERED THE WAY.

WOULD YOU DENY YOUR BENEVOLENCE TO ONE WHO REPENTS?


YOU TRUSTED HIM ONCE. WITH YOUR DAUGHTER. WITH YOUR LEGACY.

ALLOW HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOU THAT FAITH WAS NOT MISGUIDED.

MY CONCERN FOR MITSUKO IS THE ONLY THING THAT STAYS MY HAND FROM EXACTING VENGEANCE.

YOU ARE TRULY YOUR FATHER'S SON, KICHIRO. YOU DO ISAMU PROUD.

WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. DID YOU COME HERE WITH A PLAN?



THE ENEMY STANDS
JUST OUTSIDE OUR WALLS,
READY TO DESTROY WHAT
WE HAVE FOUGHT FOR
GENERATIONS TO BUILD.
WE DO NOT ENTER THIS
CONFLICT SEEKING
GLORY.

MANY WILL
PERISH ON THIS NIGHT.
WE FIGHT NOT FOR
OURSELVES, BUT FOR
THE SURVIVAL OF A WAY
OF LIFE, AND FOR
THOSE YET TO
COME.

BATTLES ARE WON IN THE HEART AND THE MIND,
LONG BEFORE YOU EVER ENGAGE AN ENEMY. WE
ARE SAMURAI. THE BUSHIDO SHOWS US THE PATH
TO VICTORY IN SPITE OF ANY OBSTACLE.


TRUST IN YOUR TRAINING
AND YOURSELVES...AND
THIS BATTLE IS ALREADY
WON.



THE REST
MUST COME
FROM YOU,
KICHIRO.

"THE PLAN IS
SIMPLE. BE
RIGHT. BE
TRUTHFUL. BE
SAMURAI."

"STAND FOR
SOMETHING GREATER
THAN YOURSELVES, EVEN
IN THE FACE OF LOSING
EVERYTHING, AND YOU
CANNOT BE DEFEATED."



MY BROTHER,
OROCHI, HAS
SPENT TIME WITH
OUR ENEMY. HE
KNOWS WHAT IS IN
THEIR MINDS. IT IS
NOT COURAGE OR
TRUTHFULNESS, NOT
RECTITUDE OR
LOYALTY.

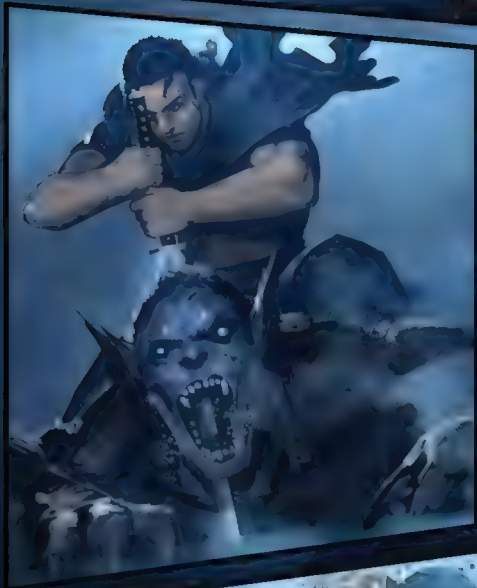
THEY ARE NOT
DRIVEN BY ANY
VIRTUE. THEIR GOAL
IS DESTRUCTION,
PAIN, AND
DEATH.



THE PLAN WAS
NEITHER
ELEGANT NOR
GRACEFUL...

...BUT A FOCUSED
MIND CAN PIERCE
THROUGH STONE.

IF IT WAS DEATH
THEY WANTED, IT
WAS DEATH THEY
WOULD RECEIVE.





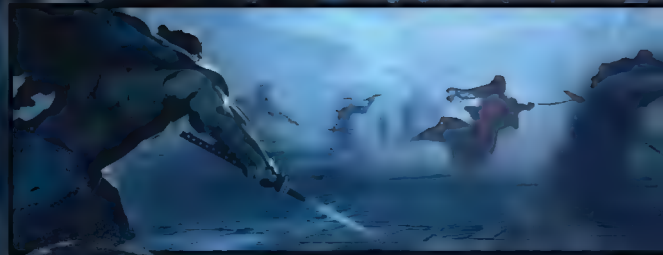
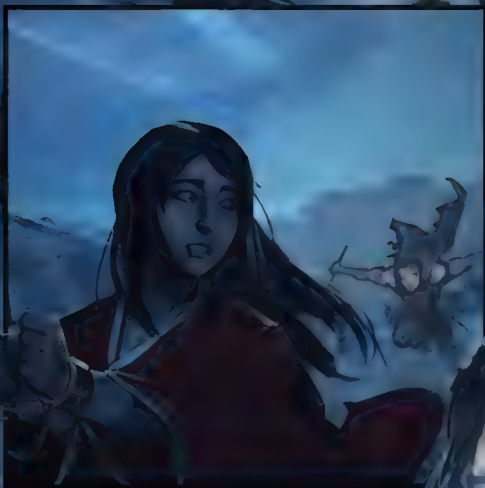
OROCHI, GET TO MITSUKO. KEEP HER SAFE.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN AGAIN, BROTHER.

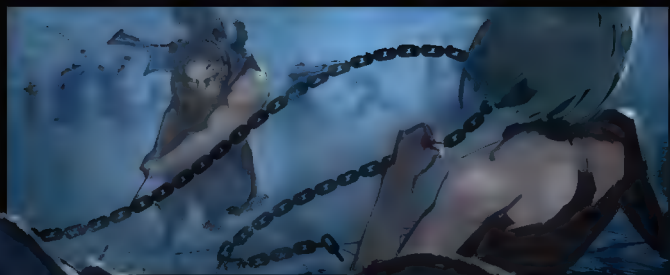
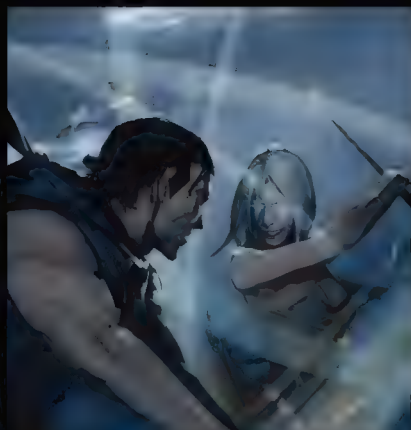


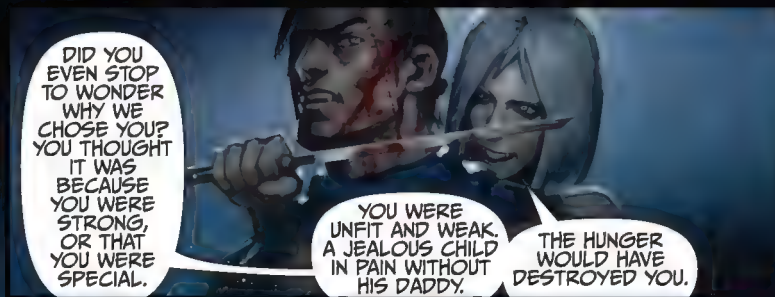
THERE WAS A FIGHT WITHIN OROCHI THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BATTLE THAT RAGED AROUND HIM.



DESPITE THE TURMOIL, MY BROTHER MOVED WITH PURPOSE, PRECISION AND ALL THE SKILL I COULD ONLY HOPE TO POSSESS.







DID YOU
EVEN STOP
TO WONDER
WHY WE
CHOSE YOU?
YOU THOUGHT
IT WAS
BECAUSE
YOU WERE
STRONG,
OR THAT
YOU WERE
SPECIAL.

YOU WERE
UNFIT AND WEAK.
A JEALOUS CHILD
IN PAIN WITHOUT
HIS DADDY.

THE HUNGER
WOULD HAVE
DESTROYED YOU.



I THINK
YOU ARE
RIGHT.



I AM SORRY,
MITSUKO, FOR
EVERYTHING.

THIS IS NO
PLACE FOR THE
SHOGUN'S
DAUGHTER. I
WILL TAKE YOU
SOMEWHERE
SAFE.







IT WON'T
END QUICKLY
FOR YOU.

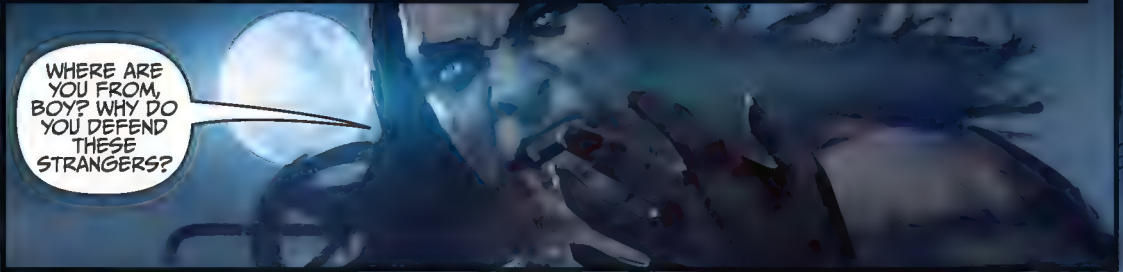


I'LL
SEE TO THAT
PERSONALLY.



PICK
IT UP.



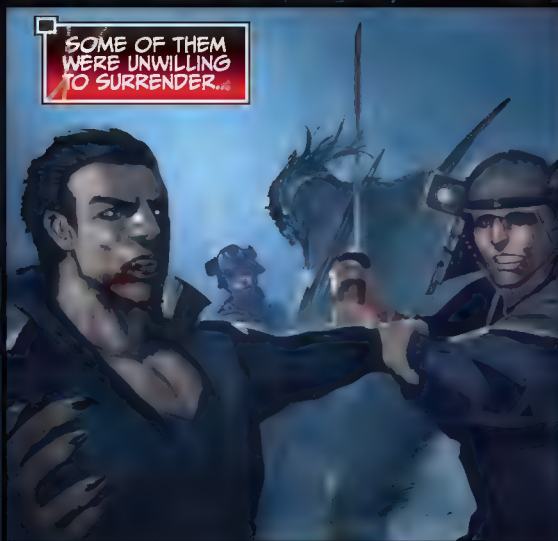






ALL OF
YOU. LEAVE NIPPON
NOW AND WE WILL
NOT HUNT YOU.
STAY, AND THESE
BREATHS WILL BE
YOUR LAST.

SOME OF THEM
WERE UNWILLING
TO SURRENDER.



...BUT THEY QUICKLY
CHOSE SURVIVAL
OVER COURAGE.



WHERE
IS SHE?

MITSUKO IS
SAFE, BROTHER.
NO HARM WILL
BEFALL HER
THIS DAY.

GO TO
HER.



FOR MANY YEARS I
BELIEVED IN ONE DREAM --
BECOMING SAMURAI.

SEEING HER
FACE, AFTER
EVERYTHING, I
KNEW IT HAD
BEEN REPLACED
BY ANOTHER.



IT'S
OVER.
YOU'RE
SAFE.

WHAT
HAPPENS
NOW?



THIS NEW
DREAM IS ONE
I HOPE TO
NEVER WAKE
FROM.





YOU'RE LEAVING?

THIS HUNGER...IT CLOUDS MY MIND. I AM NOT MYSELF AND I FEEL THAT SLIPPING FURTHER WITH EACH MOMENT I REMAIN.



I DO NOT BELONG IN NIPPON. NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE.

I MAY NEVER MAKE PEACE WITH MY ACTIONS, BUT ANY FUTURE I MIGHT HAVE CANNOT PUT THOSE I LOVE IN JEOPARDY.

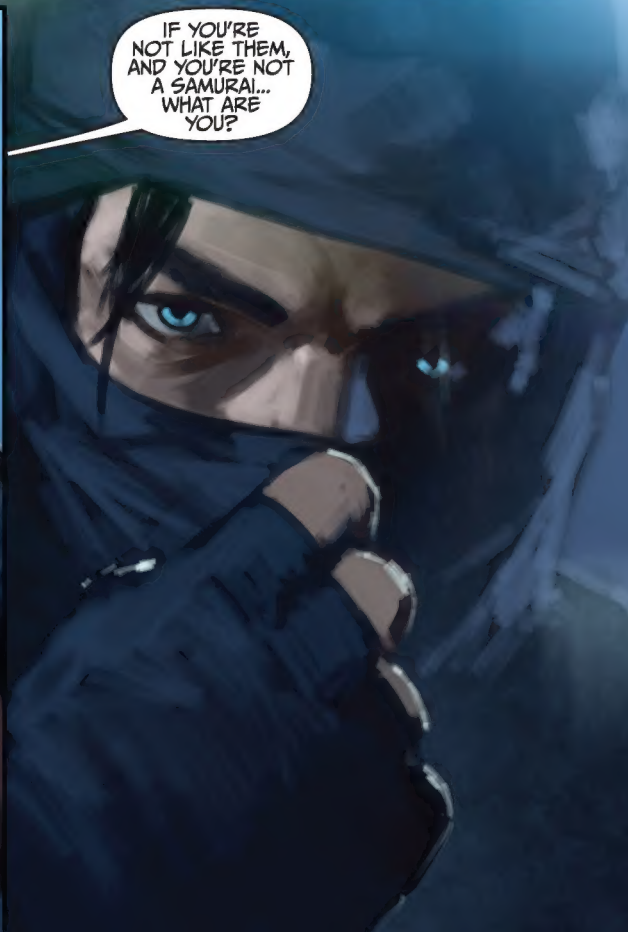
I WILL NEVER HURT YOU AGAIN, KICHIRO. BUT I CAN FEEL THEIR CURSED BLOOD WITHIN ME.



YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM, OROCHI. YOU KNOW THAT. YOU'RE MY BROTHER.

WE NEVER WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THOSE MONSTERS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

I AM NOT LIKE YOU, BROTHER. NOT ANYMORE. I WANT TO FOLLOW THE *BUSHIDO*, BUT I MUST FIND A DIFFERENT PASSAGE THROUGH THIS DARKNESS.



IF YOU'RE NOT LIKE THEM, AND YOU'RE NOT A SAMURAI... WHAT ARE YOU?

"SOMETHING
ELSE."



THE END...?

DARKNESS

